

Application Serial No: 10/672,969
In reply to Office Action of 04 November 2005

Attorney Docket No. 82829

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application. No claims are allowed. Claims 1-13 are rejected. Claims 1 and 9 are amended by this response. Claims 3 and 5 are canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner has objected that claim 3 does not further limit claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, United States Patent No. 3,137,203, in view of Gunning, United States Patent No. 2,848,970.

This rejection and objection are respectfully traversed in view of these amendments and remarks.

Applicants have addressed the Examiner's objection to claim 3 by canceling this claim.

Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of claim 5 therein. The amended claim 1 has a scope similar to the original claim 5 which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicants' amendments are therefore in compliance with the Examiner's requirements for allowance. Claim 5 has been canceled as being redundant. Dependent claims 6-8 and 10-13 should be allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-8 and 10-13 is respectfully requested.

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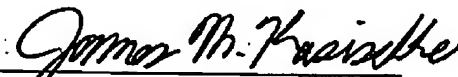
Applicants have amended claim 9 by rewriting it in independent form and incorporating all of the limitations of base claim 1. This is in strict compliance with the Examiner's requirements for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 9 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully suggest that all grounds for rejection have been addressed and request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone James M. Kasischke, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,
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10 January 2006

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